



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/780,735	02/19/2004	Kazuhiro Shimizu	249115US2	3296
22850	7590	09/09/2005	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			MAI, LAM T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2819	

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/780,735

Applicant(s)

SHIMIZU, KAZUHIRO

Examiner

LAM T. MAI

Art Unit

2819

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 13-19 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8-12 and 21-26 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 February 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/19/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 2/19/2004 has been considered by the examiner.

Specification

The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title that is clearly indicate of the invention which the claims are directed, is required in response to this office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Okamoto et al (USP 6,774,674).

Regarding claim 7, Okamoto discloses a semiconductor device in figure 36 that teaches a high potential part and reserve level part configured to level shift a signal from the high potential part and a voltage device provide in high potential part and configure to detect a potential at an output line (see figure 36 and col. 1-4).

Regarding claim 20, Okamoto discloses a semiconductor device in figure 36 that teaches a high potential part and reserve level part configured to level shift a signal from the high potential part and a voltage device provide in high potential part and configure to detect a potential at an output line (see figure 36 and col. 1-4).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but they are would be considered allowable if they are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The prior art fails to teach or suggest features of the objected claims.

Claims 21-26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but they are would be considered allowable if they are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The prior art fails to teach or suggest features of the objected claims.

Claims 1-6, 13-19 are allowable.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claim 1 is allowed over the prior art of record. The prior art of record, considered individually or in

combination, fails to fairly show or suggest the claimed semiconductor device comprising, among other limitations, a novel and unobvious limitations of "a voltage detecting device provided in said low potential part and configured to detect a potential at an output line of at least one of said first and second level shift parts and to supply a logic value based on the potential for said low side logic circuit, thereby controlling an operation of said low side logic circuit" structurally and functionally interconnected with other limitations in the manner as cited in claims 2-6.

Claim 13 is allowed over the prior art of record. The prior art of record, considered individually or in combination, fails to fairly show or suggest the claimed semiconductor device comprising, among other limitations, a novel and unobvious limitations of "a voltage detecting device provided in said low potential part and configured to detect a potential at an output line extending out of said high potential part outputting said high main power potential and to supply a logic value based on said potential for said low side logic circuit, thereby controlling an operation of said low side logic circuit" structurally and functionally interconnected with other limitations in the manner as cited in claims 14-19.

Cited References

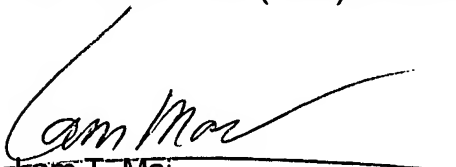
The prior art made of record and not replied upon is considered pertinent to application's disclosures. The cited references related to manner instant application.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LAM T. MAI whose telephone number is (571)272-1807. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00 am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pascal J. Robert can be reached on (571) 272-1769. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Lam T. Mai
Art Unit 2819